

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a vinyl chloride-based polymer which comprises:

polymerizing either a vinyl chloride monomer, or a mixture of a vinyl chloride monomer and another copolymerizable monomer therewith in an aqueous medium in a polymerization vessel equipped with a reflux condenser,

removing heat generated in the polymerization, using said reflux condenser, and

adding an aqueous solution of an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide copolymeric polyether with a weight average molecular weight of 1,500,000 to 2,000,000, and an ethylene oxide to propylene oxide molar ratio within a range from 78/22 to 82/18, as an antifoaming agent, in a quantity equivalent to 0.001 parts by weight to 0.008 parts by weight in terms of said copolymeric polyether per 100 parts by weight of said vinyl chloride monomer or the monomer mixture, to a polymerization mixture when a polymerization ~~rate~~ conversion is within 30% to 50%.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein from a point where said polymerization ~~rate~~ conversion reaches 60%, a ratio of a quantity of heat removed by said reflux condenser relative to a total quantity of heat removed, per unit of time, is at least 30%.

Claim 3 (Original): The process according to claim 2, wherein said ratio of a quantity of heat removed by said reflux condenser is in a range of 30 to 60%.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein said copolymeric polyether has a weight average molecular weight of 1,700,000 to 2,000,000.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution of said copolymeric polyether has a concentration within a range from 0.1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution of said copolymeric polyether has a concentration within a range from 0.5 to 3% by weight.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution of said copolymeric polyether is added in a quantity equivalent to 0.003 parts by weight to 0.008 parts by weight in terms of said copolymeric polyether per 100 parts by weight of said vinyl chloride monomer or said monomer mixture.

Claim 8 (New): The process of Claim 1, wherein said monomer mixture comprises at least 50% by weight vinyl chloride monomer, and at least one another copolymerizable monomer.

Claim 9 (New): The process of Claim 1, wherein said monomer mixture comprises at least 80% by weight vinyl chloride monomer, and at least one another copolymerizable monomer.

Claim 10 (New): The process of Claim 8, wherein another copolymerizable monomer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl esters, (meth)acrylate esters, maleic anhydride, acrylonitrile, styrene, vinylidene chloride, and the mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (New): The process of Claim 10, wherein said vinyl esters are selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (New): The process of Claim 10, wherein said (meth)acrylate esters are selected from the group consisting of methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 13 (New): The process of Claim 1, further comprising adding at least one dispersant to the polymerization mixture.

Claim 14 (New): The process of Claim 13, wherein said dispersant is selected from the group consisting of water soluble cellulose ethers, water soluble partially saponified polyvinyl alcohols, acrylic acid polymers, water soluble polymers, oil soluble emulsifiers, water soluble emulsifiers, and the mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said water soluble cellulose ethers are selected from the group consisting of methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, and the mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said water soluble polymers are gelatin.

Claim 17 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said oil soluble emulsifiers are selected from the group consisting of sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan trioleate, glycerin

tristearate, block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, and the mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said water soluble emulsifiers are selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene glycerin oleate, sodium laurate, and the mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (New): The process of Claim 1, further comprising adding at least one polymerization initiator to the polymerization mixture.

Claim 20 (New): The process of Claim 19, wherein said polymerization initiator is selected from the group consisting of peroxycarbonate compounds, peroxy ester compounds, peroxides, azo compounds, potassium persulfate, ammonium persulfate, hydrogen peroxide, and the mixtures thereof.